

REMARKS

By the present communication, claims 20, 24 and 32 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is introduced as the claimed subject matter is fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. In addition, claims 33-44 and 49-52 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any subject matter that is canceled by the instant amendment in future prosecution of this application or in future divisional or continuation applications. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-32 and 45-48 will be pending.

The Examiner has indicated that Group I is directed to claims 12-32 and 45-48 drawn to methods for the alteration of the load of a hepatitis virus in a host organism comprising the modulation of a complex. The Examiner has not identified any group for claims 1-11. Accordingly, it appears that the "12" is a typographical error and that Group I should include claims 1-32 and 45-48. Claims 1-11 belong in Group I as they are also directed to methods for the alteration of the load of a hepatitis virus in a host organism comprising the modulation of a complex. Moreover, claims 12-32 and 47 each depend from at least one of claims 1-11. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner correct the indication of Group I to claims 1-32 and 45-48.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Group I for examination. Applicant further elects human hepatitis B virus (HBV) as the species of hepatitis virus; mammal as the species of host organism; human as the species of mammal; method for the treatment of a hepatitis infection as the species of method claims; and a DNA molecule as the species of modulating complex formation, for examination.

Claims 1-32 and 45-48 read on the elected species.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. In the event that any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is

encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any additional extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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